

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form****1. Name of Property**historic name Nipher, Professor Frances E., Houseother names/site number Nipher, Clara, House**2. Location**street & number 435 North Harrison [N/A] not for publicationcity or town Kirkwood [N/A] vicinitystate Missouri code MO county St. Louis code 189 zip code 63122**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments ☐.)

Claire F. Blackwell 12 August 02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(See continuation sheet for additional comments ☐.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.See continuation sheet ☐.☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.See continuation sheet ☐.☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.☐ removed from the National  
Register.☐ other, (explain:)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Nipher, Professor Frances E., House**  
**St. Louis County, Missouri**  
**Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

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**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources Within Property	
		Contributing	Non-contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	1
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
 DOMESTIC/ secondary structure  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Tudor Revival  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

foundation Concrete  
 walls Weatherboard  
 Stucco  
 roof Asphalt  
 other Wood  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description See continuation sheet [ x].

See continuation sheet [ ]

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See continuation sheet [x].

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

See continuation sheet [x].

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1910 -ca. 1926

**Significant Dates**

1910-ca. 1926

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☒ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

**Name of repository:**

Kirkwood Planning and Development Department

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.867

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	725480	4273750			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title See Continuation Sheet

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FOP for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Ms. Bertha Garesche

street & number 435 North Harrison Ave. telephone (314) 965-1640

city or town Kirkwood state MO zip code 63122

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**Nipher, Professor Frances E., House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

**Summary:** The Professor Frances E. Nipher House, which was built in 1910, is located at 435 N. Harrison in Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Missouri. The two and one-half story, Tudor Revival style residence has narrow clapboard covered walls, with stucco and decorative half-timbering found on oriel walls and in the gable ends of the house and dormers. It is a large, high style example of Property Type E. Twentieth Century Style Residences, Subtype: Tudor Revival. It meets the registration requirements for that property type set forth in the MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri." The steeply pitched side-gabled roof has two gable dormers on the facade, as well as two second-story oriel bays. A small gabled hood covers the front entry, and there are porches on the other elevations as well. These and other typical Tudor Revival features combine to give an asymmetrical appearance to the house. A ca. 1926 frame garage is the northwest corner of the large lot; it does not retain sufficient integrity to be a contributing structure. The house was converted to a duplex around 1926, a change that had little impact upon the overall appearance. The Nipher house retains a high degree of integrity in the areas of design, materials, workmanship, feeling location, setting, and association.

**Elaboration:** The basic form of the Professor Francis E. Nipher House is a rectangular box, from which numerous porches, bays, and oriels project. This, combined with the fenestration arrangement and Tudor Revival details, give the basic rectangular form an asymmetrical appearance. The side-gabled house has a bellcast roof, with widely overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. The front elevation faces east onto North Harrison, and is divided into three bays. The central bay has a small, gable roof portico supported by wood brackets over the front entry door. The entry door is wood, and is enframed by sidelights and a three-light transom. The gable end of the hood over the front door, as well as the gable ends of the main roof, dormers, and the walls of the oriel bays, feature decorative half-timbering with stucco panels. The remainder of the house is clad with narrow wood clapboards.

On the second story above the entry is a group of three small, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The remaining windows on the house vary in many aspects -- from size, groupings, type, and design. Several windows are three-over-one, double-hung sash, and are either placed singly, or in groups of twos or threes. Most of the dormer windows, including those on the facade, are wood casements, each with two lights -- one small on top, and one large. A small, shed roof dormer on the front elevation has a three light awning window.

The facade is further accentuated with two oriel window bays on the second story. Located in the first and third bays, these oriels contain one or two windows, and have the typical Tudor Revival cladding of stucco and decorative half-timbers. The north oriel is larger than its counterpart on the south end of the front elevation. This is true of the gable dormers on the front as well.

A shed-roofed, one-story porch runs along the eastern half of the south elevation. The raised porch with wood floor has square wood columns and a wood balustrade. It was glassed-in in 1988 with large windows. A large, exterior chimney with arched, terra cotta caps extends through the

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peak of the side gable roof. The north side elevation has a small two-story addition, with another one-story addition extending further to the north. The rear, or west, elevation has a one-story, flat-roofed section which spans three-quarters of the back wall. Above that section is shed-roofed porch, with square porch supports and wood balustrade. Another two-story porch is on the north end of the rear elevation. The first story of the porch has been screened in; the second story is open, with a simple wood balustrade. Both stories are supported by square wood columns. The rear sections are of uncertain construction date, but most appear to have been in place by the time the house was mapped by the Sanborn Company in 1926.

The interior features of the house are largely intact as well. Most of the interior wood work is in place, along with wood floors and plaster walls. The interior woodwork is characterized by clean lines and restrained ornamentation. The formal stair hall is highly intact. The stairs feature a simple square newel posts and a square balusters. Most rooms have simple flat baseboards and narrow crown molding.

The house sits near the front of a narrow lot which covers just over 8/10 of an acre. The lot slopes gently to the rear and contains numerous large deciduous shade trees, as well as several small flowering trees. A ca. 1926 frame garage is located at the end of a driveway which runs just north of the house. The one-car garage has lots its integrity from its period of construction, and is non-contributing. Overall, the house is in very good condition, and appears today very much as it did in 1910. △

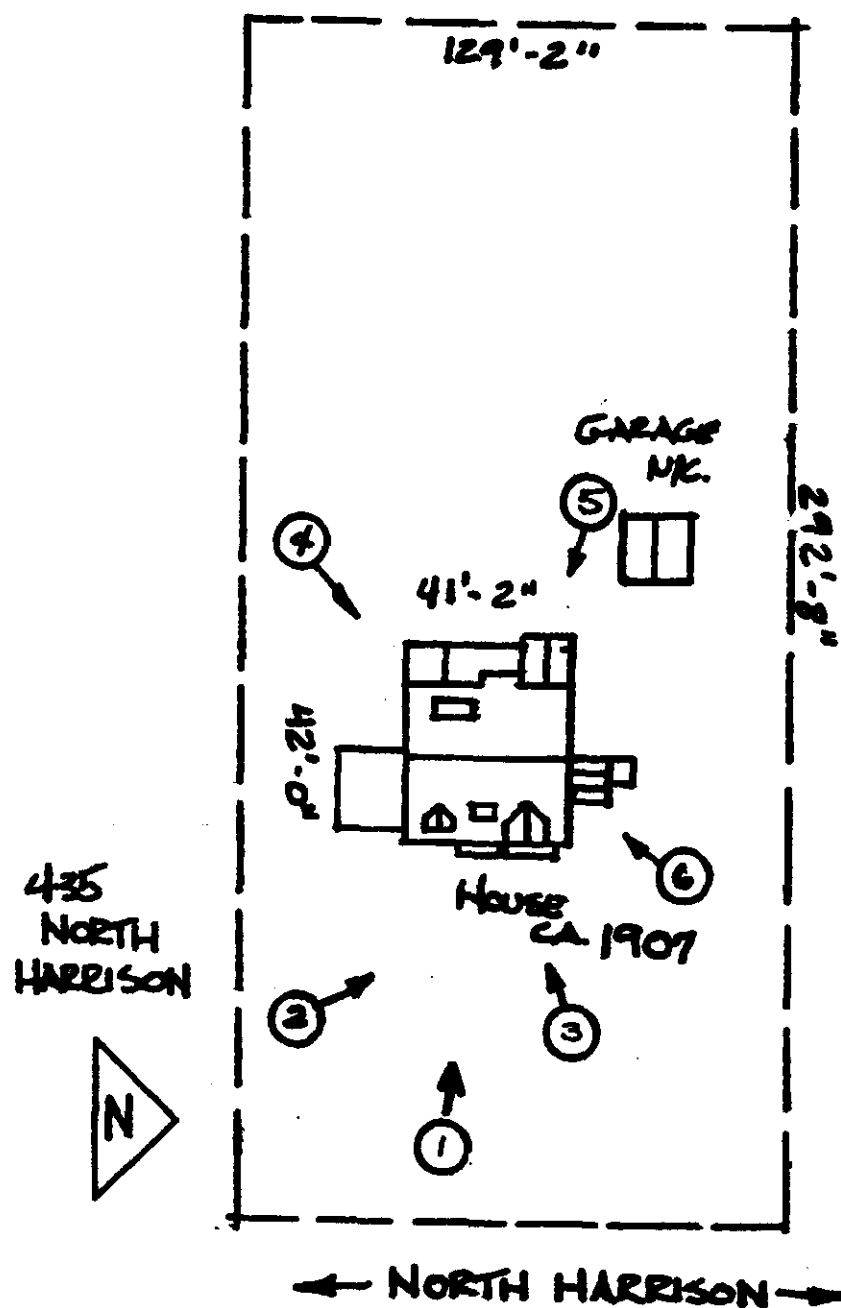
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Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

Figure One. Site plan and photo key.



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St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

**Summary** The Professor Frances E. Nipher House, 435 N. Harrison, is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. It is an essentially unaltered example of a Tudor Revival style house, and is therefore a representative example of Property Type E. Twentieth Century Styled Residences, Subtype: Tudor Revival. The house meets the registration requirements for that property type set forth in the MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri," and falls under the context "The City of Kirkwood: Transition to An Automobile Suburb--1899-1952." It features many of the design elements which distinguish this style, such as a steeply pitched gable roof, decorative half-timbering with stucco panels, grouped windows with multi-pane glazing, and a large chimney with an ornamental cap. These features, combined with porches, bays, and oriel windows, give an asymmetrical, "picturesque" appearance to an otherwise static rectangular floorplan. The house gains further significance from its association with internationally prominent physicist Professor Francis E. Nipher.<sup>1</sup> The house was built for Nipher and his wife in 1910, and it remained in their family until 1971, when purchased by the current owners. Nipher, who was widely recognized for his work in the field of physics, did much of his research and writing in this house, especially after retiring from Washington University in 1914; he died in the house in 1926. After his death, the house was converted to a duplex dwelling by Nipher's widow, a change that involved only minor alterations. The period of significance thus runs from the construction date of 1910 to ca. 1926, when it was converted. The house is highly intact and appears today much as it did during Professor Nipher's lifetime.

**Elaboration:** The Nipher house is a large, early example of the Tudor Revival style, which is a subtype of the Twentieth Century Styled Residences property type.<sup>2</sup> Like most of the houses of that property type in Kirkwood, this house is of frame, and of ample proportions. It may have been professionally designed. It is a good early example of the Tudor Revival subtype, with an eclectic combination of architectural features borrowed from Medieval English prototypes. In addition to the character-defining ornamental half-timbering and irregular massing, the house also features multi-paned windows, some of which are grouped or combined with transoms, and an elaborate roof structure which features flared gables, and multiple roof features such as dormers and cross gables. This is one of the earliest examples of the Tudor Revival subtype to be identified in the historic core

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<sup>1</sup> Further research in to the connection between this house and Professor Nipher's accomplishments could justify a future argument for significance under Criterion B as well.

<sup>2</sup> See MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri, Section F, Associated Property Types," for more discussion of the Twentieth Century Styled Residences Property Type.



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of Kirkwood; most Tudor Revival houses there were built between 1920 and 1930.<sup>3</sup>

The house at 435 N. Harrison was built in 1910 for the Frances E. Nipher family. Professor Nipher was a native of New York, but was raised and educated in Iowa. In 1870, he received a Bachelor of Philosophy, and in 1873, he obtained his M.A. In 1874, he joined the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis, where he taught Astronomy and Physics. He eventually devoted all of this time to the field of physics. In 1877, he established the volunteer weather service of Missouri. In Dahl's 1965 history of Kirkwood, she states that "his experiments in various areas were so extensive that at the time of his death it was impossible to list the contributions he had made to all of the different fields in which he had done research."<sup>4</sup>

After he reached the mandatory age of retirement from Washington University in 1914, he was able to devote all of his time to research. Dahl notes that much of that research "was done in the Kirkwood home he had built for his family in 1910."<sup>5</sup> He was also a charter member of the St. Louis Academy of Science. It was in this group's publications that he reported the results of almost all of his research. During the last 12 years of his life, all of which were spent in the house on Harrison Street, he was listed in the International Who's Who, at which time he was the only St. Louis area resident so honored. For many years he was listed in the American Who's Who, and was a member of many distinguished academies at home and abroad. He was a prolific writer, responsible for many books and printed reports, and contributed to many scientific journals.

As Dahl noted, "Professor Nipher was known and respected by scientists all over the world. At the time of his death on October 6, 1926, tributes to him appeared throughout the scientific world."<sup>6</sup> It was noted in his obituary that "The life work of Prof. Nipher was experimental physics. His discoveries and writings in the field won him membership in the Physical Society of France, the Royal Society of Arts, in London, and the American Philosophical Society, of which he was especially proud."<sup>7</sup> In 1930, the Kirkwood school board decided to honor his achievements by naming the city's

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<sup>3</sup> The 1980s survey found only three intact Tudor Revival houses which were built before 1916. See Linda Stockman, "Historic Building Inventory: Kirkwood, Missouri, 1986-1988, Final Report, 1988, (Typescript on file with the Kirkwood Community Development Office, Kirkwood, MO) pp. 21-22.

<sup>4</sup> June Wilkinson Dahl, A History of Kirkwood, Missouri: 1851-1965, (Kirkwood, Missouri: The Kirkwood Historical Society, 1965), p. 312.

<sup>5</sup> Dahl, p. 312.

<sup>6</sup> Dahl, pp. 312-313.

<sup>7</sup> "Francis E. Nipher, Noted Physicist, Dies in Kirkwood Home." Obituary, Oct. 7, 1926, (Newspaper clipping from the collections of the Missouri Historical Society.)

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Nipher, Professor Frances E., House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

new Junior High after him. Located at 700 South Kirkwood Road, it is now known as Nipher Middle School.

Socially, Professor Nipher was active as a member of the Kirkwood Monday Evening Club, a social and cultural organization founded in the 19th century that met regularly until shortly before World War I. It attracted large numbers to hear the papers presented by some of the best informed business and professional men and most highly educated women of Kirkwood. After 1900 there was a trend to bring in guest speakers. Once he joined, Professor Nipher brought in many of the faculty members of Washington University as speakers. Nipher's daughter, Clara E. Nipher, was a teacher. She never married and lived in this house until her death in 1971.

The expansive frame house on Harrison is significant as a large early Tudor Revival residence, and as an important link with one of the most prominent scientists ever to live in the community. It is highly intact and in good condition, and appears today very much as it did during Professor Nipher's lifetime. ◻

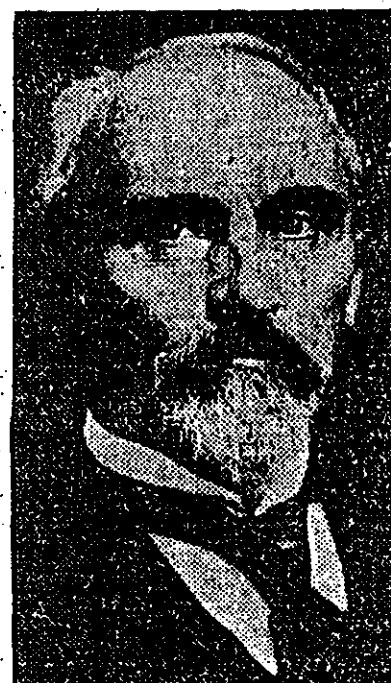
Figure Two. Excerpt from  
Professor Nipher's Obituary.

## Francis E. Nipher, Noted Physicist, Dies in Kirkwood Home

Oct. 7, 26

Eminent Professor of  
Washington U., Who Won  
International Fame with  
Research Work, Suc-  
cumbs at 78.

Famous Scientist  
Dies at Kirkwood  
Residence at 78



FRANCIS EUGENE NIPHER.

Prof. Francis E. Nipher internationally noted physicist and meteorologist and professor emeritus of physics at Washington University, died at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning at his home in Kirkwood, at the age of 78 years.

The funeral is to be held at 2:30 tomorrow afternoon from the family residence, 435 North Harrison street, Kirkwood, and will be followed by burial in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Prof. Nipher, who was retired by Washington University after forty years of service when he passed the age limit for faculty men in 1914, has been an invalid since February and was critically ill for two weeks before his death.

The life work of Prof. Nipher was experimental physics. His discoveries and writings in this field won him membership in the Physical Society of France, the Royal Society of Arts, in London, and the American Philosophical Society, of which he was especially proud.

Prof. Nipher was a most brilliant experimental physicist and a

"In the borderlands of physics proper and meteorology, Prof. Nipher did valuable experimental work with the pressure of wind on build- ings. He perfected devices for

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**Nipher, Professor Frances E., House**  
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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Dahl, June Wilkinson. A History of Kirkwood, Missouri: 1861-1965. Kirkwood, MO.: The Kirkwood Historical Society, 1965.

"Francis E. Nipher, Noted Physicist, Dies in Kirkwood Home." Obituary, Oct. 7, 1926, (Newspaper clipping from the collections of the Missouri Historical Society.)

Northwest Publishing Company. Plat Book of St. Louis County. Des Moines: IA, Northwest Publishing Company, 1909.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Map of Kirkwood, 1926.

Stockman, Linda. "Historic Building Inventory: Kirkwood, Missouri, 1986-1988, Final Report, 1988. (Typescript on file with the Kirkwood Community Development Office, Kirkwood, MO)

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National Park Service**

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**Nipher, Professor Frances E., House  
St. Louis County, Missouri  
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot 1 and the South 1 foot of Lot 2 in Block 11 of a subdivision of Lots 11 to 20 of H.W. Leffingwell's First Addition to Kirkwood, in St. Louis County, Missouri according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 8 page 21 of the St. Louis County Recorder's Office, fronting 129 feet 2 inches on the West line of Harrison Avenue by a depth Westwardly of 292 feet 8 inches to the East line of Lot 4 of said block and subdivision, having a total acreage of 0.867 acres.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries encompass all of the land associated with the house, historically and currently.

**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Nipher, Francis E. and Dora, House  
435 N. Harrison St.  
Kirkwood, St. Louis County, MO

1-2, taken by Debbie Sheals, 406 West Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203; date: 2002

3-5, taken by Linda Stockmann, 139 South Kirkwood Rd, Kirkwood, MO, 63122; date: 1990

(The house was field checked in 2002 to ensure the 1990 photos are still accurate.)

Negatives are on file with the City of Kirkwood Dept of Planing and Development, 139 South Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122, 314-822-5808.

**List of Photographs**

See photo key for indication of camera angles.

1. Facade, northeast corner.
2. Southeast corner.
3. Facade, east elevation.
4. Southwest corner.
5. Northwest corner.
6. Side addition, north elevation.
7. Stair Hall.
8. South Parlor fireplace.

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**Nipher, Professor Frances E., House**  
**St. Louis County, Missouri**  
**Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

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**11. Form Prepared By**

Name Linda Stockman  
organization Kirkwood Landmark Commission date 1990  
street & number 139 South Kirkwood Road telephone (314) 822-5808  
city or town Kirkwood state Missouri zip code 63122

Name Deon K. Wolfenbarger  
organization Three Gables Preservation date 1992  
street & number 9550 N.E. Cookingham Drive telephone (816) 792-1275  
city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64157

Name Debbie Sheals  
organization Independent Contractor date May, 2002  
street & number 406 West Broadway telephone 573-874-3779  
city or town Columbia state Missouri zip code 65203



NIPHER, PROFESSOR FRANCES E., HOUSE, 435 N. HARRISON, KIRKWOOD, ST. LOUIS COUNTY,  
MO 1.



Nipker, Professor Frances E.; House, 435 N. Harrison, Kirkwood, St. Louis  
County, Mo. 2.





Nipher, Professor Francis E., House, 435 N. Harrison, Kirkwood, St. Louis  
County, Mo. 3.





NIPHER, PROFESSOR FRANCES E., HOUSE, 435 N. HARRISON, KIRKWOOD, ST. LOUIS COUNTY,  
MO 4.



NIPHER, PROFESSOR FRANCES E., HOUSE 435 N. HARRISON, KIRKWOOD, ST. LOUIS COUNTY  
MO. 5



NIPHER, PROFESSOR FRANCES E., HOUSE, 435 N. HARRISON, KIRKWOOD, ST. LOUIS COUNTY,  
MO 6.



Nipher, Professor Francis E., House, 435 N. Harrison, Kirkwood St. Louis  
County, Mo. 7.





Nijker, Professor Francis E., House, 435 N. Harrison, Kirkwood, St. Louis  
County, Mo. 8.